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PROGRAM: Barry Gray Show

JAMES BAYARD OF CUBAN UNDERGROUND INTERVIEWED

GRAY: "Our guest's name for the purpose of the book is Mr. James Bayard, the public information officer for the Cuban underground; the group known as the Cuban Student Directorate, and is the author of a very exciting book that I read last night called, 'The Real Story on Cuba.' It's particularly noteworthy to be aware of the fact that the President of course has addressed himself to what he believes is happening in Cuba at the moment, as taken from our own observance by Air Force and so on, and I am under the impression that Mr. Bayard's book disagrees entirely with that--with the statements made by the President. Isn't that so?"

BAYARD: "Barry, from the very outset of the Cuban affair the underground, that is, the counter-revolution against Castro, was in violent disagreement with all of the previous statements of the administration, and the fact that this has in the last ten days, been brought to a boil by three different legislators, namely Dirksen, Goldwater and Keating, is no surprise to us. You may recall, when you were kind enough to have me as your guest, oh I'd say about six or seven weeks ago when I first came back from my work with the underground, I predicted at that time that there could not be a continuous covering up of what seems to be one of the most serious errors in foreign affairs administration. The problem as it stands at this moment is, that not only are we losing total face in the rest of Latin America by the previous errors which occurred during the Bay of Pigs period, and our supposed strong stand in the blockade. I'd like to pursue that, if you'll give me the opportunity because that's the great rub here. But in addition now, the exposure by both Republicans and Democrats, of the inept handling of the situation, has further weakened our condition, and already weakened American atmosphere in Latin America."

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GRAY: "Mr. Bayard, the thing that impressed me the most about your book which has many points in it, is the fact that just yesterday the President of the United States for the press conference, told us everything is quiet, under control, etc. Your book, on its cover, if I may have it for just a moment; my own copy is at home-- says, 'The Real Story on Cuba' our government has announced that the battle against Russian infiltration of Cuba has been won. Don't you believe it. It's been officially reported that Russian missiles and jet planes in Cuba have been removed. Don't you believe it. The fact is that nothing has changed. Castro is still armed to the teeth. Forty-four missiles still remain, pointing at important targets within the United States; Russian MIGS, 15s, 17s, 19s, and 21s have never even entered into the discussions on dismantling.

"The submarine bases are still operating. Czech, Yugoslav, Russian and Chinese troops are still there, numbering in the tens of thousands.' And then just one last paragraph. 'Here's a real story on Cuba from the reports submitted to the CIA and FBI by the Cuban underground. Make no mistake about it. The Communist invasion of the Western hemisphere has begun. Are we prepared to stop it?' Now, Mr. Bayard, you said a mouthfull. How do you back it up?"

BAYARD: "Well, inside the book, and we come out rather strongly, the Cuban underground, which is the new appellation for what began as the Cuban Student Directorate, is the oldest revolutionary movement on the island that had a traditional history. Thirty years ago the first group of students who were politically active in Cuba as they are in Central and South America, rose against (Socarras?). The sons of those counter-revolutionaries formed the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantif; The Cuban Student Directorate, in or about February 5, 1960, when they observed that Castro had been masquerading as a Democratic leader. They created this large underground organization and almost from the very beginning they kept bringing their reports, and this is the serious point, Barry, they kept bringing their reports to the attention of responsible governmental agencies here. Bilateral to that, there is no question in my mind, and I'm not afraid to make this statement; that the CIA, or any other counterespionage organization of our government, working in foreign countries, has not available to it the same exact information that the intelligence department of the Cuban underground provided.

"Question one: why were these reports disregarded? Question two: why did it take so long to have it revealed to the public the extent of the arms buildup? It was no secret, even at the United Nations, that the original contracts made between Raoul

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Castro and Mikoyan, were being effected. The sham activity of the callers, which you recall first started to bring supplies into Cuba, was a very, very thin veil for what was actually taking place in the army of the islands. In addition to which, a year ago, and incidentally, Barry, I gave a different interview to the Associated Press which I think is all around the country tonight; it happened rather coincidentally, and this is on the eve of my going to Washington, the day after tomorrow, to the Senate Investigation team, or one of the teams that is working there. The story that I have today officially was the infiltration of the rest of Latin America has never ceased.

"In other words, as soon as Castro took power and announced himself as a communist, his main objective was the infiltration of particularly Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras. Why? Because in those countries presidential elections, which occur this year will have a decided bearing on the future of the communist party in the Western hemisphere. So his objective, in being able to retain himself in power as a Red either controlled or uncontrolled, was still of no moment to his future plans, which was, as is indicated tonight, the infiltration by expeditionary forces. In fact, Barry, some of the Czech, Yugoslav and Chinese troops which never went home, and which incidentally was confirmed by Bill Ryan of the Associated Press two weeks ago, are used as the training officers for the expeditionary forces now going into Panama. That's how serious it is."

GRAY: "Let me put the mantle of command decision on you. What do you do?"

BAYARD: "There are two roads here. One--I believe the communists obtained a victory in being able to have the entire matter referred to the United Nations at a time when a deal was made to no longer discuss troika. In effect, the ability to have Thant act as a mediator was to their every advantage, because of the previous political negotiations at the United Nations. They therefore wanted to be in a debating position so that the continued infiltration of other countries and the re-building of arms which is stated in the paper tonight, could take place quietly. The total return of armaments in supposed compliance with the rules set down by the Thant committee that went to Havana, of course is hilarious. A purely laughable matter.

"Therefore, as far as negotiating with Russia is concerned, I believe, Barry, that this can possibly be handled decently as

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as far as the removal of Castro is concerned, because they determined to stay there. And they've got the parliamentary backing now, which they didn't have before to stay there. The other road, of course, is force. And force, through public relations activity, particularly by the administration, a concept of peace in our time, peaceful co-existence, and the publicity mills have found a hundred ways of re-expressing the word appeasement, or Munich, so that it doesn't shock us too badly. That was a bad word up until a short while ago, but now we're perfectly willing, in view of a button push and a violent third world war, to accept words that will calm our conscience that we shouldn't make a fight. The counter revolutionary forces, the Cuban underground, and in addition, many of armed forces in Central and South America; on this instance I'm leaning pretty much on conversations I've had with four of the Ambassadors and two of the foreign ministers of the Central American countries who are very alarmed, are more than willing to fight.

"Now there you are. The question is how much are we willing to enter into such a fight. And do we feel the fight now will save us the fight in the future? Are we willing to walk up and down Broadway and go to Lindy's, or go to Toots Shor's and take it very simple, and regard the news as being exciting and interesting but not imminent to disaster?"

GRAY: "Gentlemen on camera, Marty, George Hamilton?"

HAMILTON: "Well I just had a talk with Caesar Romery and Desi Arnez, and they told me that they completely agree with you. To give you a show business support, we're with you. As a matter of fact, seriously for a moment, I have always felt that the minute that you sacrifice morality an inch you've lost the battle. And the morality of the situation is--of course you'll fight now, of course you'll make your stand now, because it will only get worse later."

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GRAY: "Mr. Bayard, I know you're going to Washington. When you come back would you be willing to come by and give us a first-hand report?"

BAYARD: "I'd be delighted. As a matter of fact, I'll just fill in one brief bit of applause for yourself and in addition the station. The book which Monarch brought out, 'The Real Story on Cuba,' does mention this station, and mentions your public affairs director and

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your president, because in the book we discuss the fight against the ghostly censorship which prevented the bringing of the news from inside Cuba, again recorded in tonight's papers. And the first station, out of some 90 that carried the news as we brought it from inside Cuba, was this one here. So I'd like to add my additional thanks to WMCA."